

Meet the LSAT FAQ

Q. *What's the LSAT?*

A. The LSAT is the best standardized test ever. It's given for admission to law school. Your LSAT score is one of the most important components in your law school application.

Q. *When is the LSAT given?*

A. Here are the 2019 LSAT test dates:

Saturday, January 26, 2019 8:30 AM

Saturday, March 3, 2019 8:30 AM

Monday, June 3, 2019 12:30 PM

Monday, July 15, 2019 12:30 PM

Saturday, September 21, 2019 8:30 AM

Monday, October 28, 2019 12:30 PM

Saturday, November 23, 2019 8:30 AM

If you detest the morning as I do, take the June, July, or October test.

Q. *How many questions are on the LSAT?*

A. Usually, the LSAT has 100 or 101 questions total. Rarely, there have been 99 and 102 question LSATs.

Q. *What's on the LSAT?*

A. There are three types of sections on the LSAT:

LR	Logical Reasoning	Two sections	50-51 questions total 25-26 questions per section	Logical Reasoning consists of 25-26 little riddles to puzzle out.
LG	Logic Games	One section	23 questions	Logic Games consists of four games with 5-7 questions each.
RC	Reading Comprehension	One section	27 questions	Reading Comprehension consists of four passages with 5-8 questions each.

Q. *How long do I have to complete these sections?*

A. You have 35 minutes for every section.

Q. *How many sections do I take on the day of the test?*

A. You will take the four scored sections (two LR, one LG, one RC), plus one mystery section called the experimental section. The order of the sections changes every test. The experimental will be an extra section of either LR, LG, or RC. The experimental section is not scored, and you won't know which section is experimental during the test. It is used to test out new LSAT questions and catch cheaters. You'll never know how you did on your experimental section. After you're done with the scored sections and the experimental, you'll complete the writing sample.

Q. *What's this writing sample?*

A. After you've taken the five LSAT sections on test day, you will have 35 minutes to complete the writing sample. The writing sample is not scored; it is scanned in, so law school admissions officers can read what you wrote. Law schools look at the writing sample more often than you think. It can be used to break ties, allay concerns about the authenticity of a personal statement, and it can tank an application if you draw dolphins or write passive aggressive notes to admissions officers.

Use the expository writing skills you honed in college to demonstrate that you know how to create a thesis, support that thesis in body paragraphs with topic sentences, and conclude. Make sure your spelling and grammar is passable. Also, the instructions tell you not to erase, and I'm here to tell you to actually listen to that. If you erase, it messes up the scan and law schools can't read what you write in the space that you erased in. Cross things out instead.

Q. *What's the schedule on test day?*

A. You get there and wait around for(ever) however long it takes the proctors to handle their administrative business. You'll take three 35-minute sections in a row, then you'll have a 15-minute break after section three. After the break, you'll complete sections four and five and then the writing sample. After that, you're free to surf Reddit and try to figure out which section was experimental.

Q. *Can I cancel my score?*

A. Yes, you can cancel your score using your answer sheet during the test, or you can cancel up to six calendar days after the LSAT. The deadline to cancel is midnight Eastern Standard Time on the sixth day after your LSAT. Law schools will be able to see that you took the test and canceled when you apply.

Q. *How is the LSAT scored?*

A. The LSAT is scored on a scale of 120-180. This is a curved score.

When you take the test, you're given a point for every question you answer correctly. All the points you earn are added up and that total becomes your raw score. For instance, if you answer 70 questions correctly, your raw score is a 70. All the raw scores are compared against one another and assigned a percentile ranking. The scaled score (120-180) represents your percentile ranking.

Q. *But not all LSATs are the same level of difficulty! I can already tell this thing is rigged.*

A. They've accounted for that! Each LSAT has an individually calculated curve to account for the differing levels of difficulty between each exam. For instance, on some exams you can only get 10 wrong to get a 170. On other exams, you can get 16 wrong and end up with the same score. The curve is normalized to compare you to the last three years of test takers, so it's not like you can rely on taking the LSAT with a less competitive group of people.

Q. *What's the median LSAT score?*

A. The median score is a 151-152. This usually translates to a raw score of 56 to 60 questions right. Remember that this is a bell curve, so a score in the 170s or the 120s is extremely rare. The vast majority of test takers score between 140-160. Only the top ~3% of test takers score at 170 or above. Only the top ~20% of test takers score at 160 or above.

Q. *Is there a guessing penalty on the LSAT?*

A. There is no guessing penalty. **You should prioritize bubbling in answers for every question in every section, even if you don't get to them.** You might get a few free points.

Q. *So I have to use a Scantron on the LSAT? I thought I was done with that nonsense.*

A. Yeah, you have to use a Scantron, and yes, the Scantron is annoying. **Use the Scantron on every timed practice section from the beginning.** You need to factor the bubbling time in. It seriously takes a full minute, even if you go fast. Using a dull pencil makes bubbling significantly faster.

Q. *Can I bring my phone into the LSAT?*

A. No, you cannot bring your phone or any other electronic device into the LSAT test center. LSAC has super strict security procedures for the test. Make sure to review all the information you receive from LSAC to ensure you're in compliance with their rules.

Q. *Can I use mechanical pencils on the LSAT?*

A. No, you cannot use mechanical pencils. You can only use old school wooden pencils, which are the best so it's fine.

Q. *Can I bring a digital timer into the LSAT?*

A. No, you can only bring an analog watch into the test center. For those of us who aren't especially adept at owning and using analog watches, they make LSAT watches. These are analog 35-minute timers that meet LSAC requirements.

My favorite LSAT watch is Option X on 35minutes.com. It divides the 35 minutes up into colored quadrants; this is ideal since there are four games and four passages. The way it's broken up makes it easy to track if you're on pace to finish the section. This LSAT watch is less expensive than many others and keeps reliable time. It also has a smiley face. I used this watch on my real LSAT.